

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Advisory Action of December 2, 2005, Applicant encloses a Request for Continuing Examination together with the prescribed fee.

The required submissions are set out below in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, the Applicant asks that the finality of the last report be withdrawn and the enclosed arguments and amendments be fully considered.

Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate additional aspects of the colour correction method of the present invention. In particular, the amendments highlight the computationally efficient manner in which the processor combines the colour correction and colour space conversion of the sensed image.

This process is described in detail at page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 6. Accordingly, the amendments do not add new matter.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 - Obviousness

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 5,894,326 to McIntyre et al, in view of US 5,233,414 to Kojima, in further view of US 5,999,203 to Cane et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to define that the processor uses the image data captured in the first image, together with the colour look up tables used for converting the image to the printhead colour space into a single matrix that can be applied to each colour component of each pixel. Combining the colour correction and colour conversion significantly reduces the processing burden on the processor. This lowers the overall processing capability necessary for the camera, which has a direct impact on the production costs as well as image processing speeds. Both of these aspects are of particular importance to single use cameras.

The invention exploits the relatively small non-linearities in the conversion from the colour space of an image sensor to that of an inkjet printhead. More specifically, as the camera system has an inbuilt printer, the colour spaces for both the image sensor and the printhead are not variable. This means that the particular colour space conversion performed by the processor will be acceptably accurate because the precise characteristics of the output printhead are known. Utilizing the relatively linear per-channel colour space conversion permits the colour correction (derived from the statistics collected from the first image) and the colour conversion to be accomplished via a simple matrix multiply. While a more complex system would accommodate non-linearities, and produce a more accurate result in the output image, the use of a linear approximation and colour look up tables will meet consumer expectations for this type of produce in terms of image quality and relatively low unit cost.

The combined disclosures of the cited references fail to teach all the elements of amended claim 1. Furthermore, the citations do not describe or suggest the particular processing efficiencies possible using the techniques of the present invention.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is not obvious in light of the prior art. Similarly, claims 3 and 4 are also non-obvious by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Claim 2 - Obviousness

Claim 2 stands rejected as obvious in light of US 5,894,326 to McIntyre et al, in view of US 5,233,414 to Kojima, and of US 5,999,203 to Cane et al and US 6,281,533 to Miyagawa.

Miyagawa also fails to mention the potential benefits of incorporating colour correction and colour space conversion into a single processing step, within a camera system with inbuilt inkjet printhead. It follows that claim 2 is not obvious.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed. The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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